

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13 are independent, and the rest are dependent. The USPTO fee for the presentation of five independent claims in excess of three¹ is submitted herewith. The claims have been amended in light of the Office action to avoid all of the rejections. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to the abstract of the disclosure because it does not begin on a separate sheet. The abstract has accordingly been rewritten on a separate sheet and is enclosed as an appendix hereto. It has not been otherwise amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to claims 5, 6 and 8-15 on the ground that they do not positively recite any method steps. Those claims, except for claim 9, which is a product-by-process claim and entails method steps only by virtue of its dependency, have been rewritten to recite method steps, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rothman (3,799,701). The Office action concludes that every feature recited by those claims is disclosed by Rothman.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 1 and therefore claims 2, 3 and 5, which depend on claim 1, have been amended to avoid the rejection. As amended, they are directed to an embedding element (11) for embedment in the root of a wind turbine rotor blade (15) of a fibre composite material. The embedding element is elongated, has a first end portion (1) and a second end portion (2), and is provided with fastening means (24) in its first end portion (1). Between its two end portions (1, 2), the embedding element (11) is provided with planar upper and lower surfaces (18, 19), with a first longitudinal lateral face (14) extending substantially concavely in a cross-sectional view perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the embedding element, and with a second longitudinal lateral face (16) facing opposite the first lateral face (14) and extending

¹ \$200 x (8 - 3) = \$1,000.

substantially correspondingly convexly in a cross-sectional view perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

The planar upper and lower surfaces and the wedging function they perform are disclosed in the specification in a passage beginning at 6:4-5. The surfaces are illustrated in application Figs. 1, 5, 7, 9 and 10.

The claims as amended cannot be read on the document relied upon. The Office action states that the lower face of element 14 of Rothman corresponds to the first longitudinal lateral face of claim 1 and the upper face of element 14 of Rothman corresponds to the second longitudinal lateral face of claim 1. But that is not true as applied to the amended claims, which specify that the upper and lower surfaces are planar. As the Office action notes in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3, the lower face of Rothman's element 14 extends concavely, and the upper face of Rothman's element 14 extends correspondingly convexly.

Moreover, the claims are directed to an embedding element for embedment in the root of a wind turbine rotor blade, whereas Rothman's fan blade is intended for use in a jet engine as a compressor, or fan or prop-fan blades (Rothman 1:61-64). A person skilled in wind turbine technology would likely look to windmill technology rather than engine technology for inspiration.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Section 4 on page 3 of the Office action notes that claims 4 and 6-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Box 7 on the summary page is evidently intended to include claims 13-15, which were presented in dependent form, among the claims allowable in substance. Accordingly, the claims have been rewritten as follows:

Claim	Dependency	Combines previous claims
1	Independent	
2	1	
3	2	
4	Independent	1, 4
5	1	
6	Independent	1, 5, 6
7	Independent	1, 5, 7
8	Independent	1, 8
9	8	
10	Independent	1, 10
11	Independent	1, 5, 11
12	11	
13	Independent	1, 5, 13
14	13	
15	8	

For the reasons stated, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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